

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A supporting and fastening arrangement for contact wires comprising a one-piece elongate support portion which can be fixed by means of suitable fastening means to a mast, a pipe, or a house wall, and a coupling element for connecting the support portion to a bracing tube, wherein the support portion has a central first opening and/or recess which is provided to co-operate with a matching connecting portion of the coupling element and which is adapted to make a connection which can be plugged in and released and which is secured in respect of rotation and which is fixed when placed under a tensile and/or pressure loading, and

wherein the coupling element has a pivot portion fitted thereto and connected to a counterpart fork coupling element which is adapted for connecting to a bracing tube, and wherein the coupling element is in the form of a receiving holder for the support portion and has a receiving portion for insertion and positively locking retention of the support portion, and the coupling element is in the form of a yoke-shaped holder which to provide the receiving portion embraces the support portion in a U-shape in the region of the first opening and is adapted to provide the pivot portion for receiving the coupling element counterpart fork at open leg ends first and second leg portions of the holder.

2. (previously presented) An arrangement as set forth in claim 1 characterised in that the support portion has a cross section which at least in a portion-wise manner is of a double-T-shaped configuration and which has on both sides of a front and a rearward longitudinal slot a pair of side portions with an edge configuration which is rounded in the direction in which the longitudinal slots extend.

3. (previously presented) An arrangement as set forth in claim 1 characterised in that at the end, at least at one end, the support portion has a slot forming a second opening which is disposed in the plane of the first opening.

4. (previously amended) An arrangement as set forth in claim 1 characterised in that in the region of the first opening the support portion has a recess which extends perpendicularly to the direction in which the support portion extends and which is such that in a condition of connection to the coupling element a portion of the coupling element engages into the recess and additionally fixes the coupling element.

5. (cancelled)

6. (previously presented) An arrangement as set forth in claim 1 characterised in that the receiving portion and the pivot portion are in one piece.

7. (cancelled)

8. (currently amended) An arrangement as set forth in claim 1 characterised by a ~~U-shaped fork element which is such that,~~

~~with a central connecting portion, it can be in that said counterpart fork coupling element is fitted non-rotatably into longitudinal slots of the support portion and can also be fixed by means of a sleeve element to a tube end.~~

9. (currently amended) An arrangement as set forth in claim 8 characterised in that free legs of the ~~fork element~~ counterpart fork coupling element are of such dimensions that in an assembled condition they project through the first opening and/or the longitudinal slots and non-rotatably fix the fork element when under a tensile loading relative to the support portion.

10. (previously presented) An arrangement as set forth in claim 1 characterised by a bar element which is such that it can be non-rotatably fitted into longitudinal slots of the support portion and can also be fixed by means of a sleeve element to a tube end.

11. (previously presented) An arrangement as set forth in claim 10 characterised in that a bar portion of the bar element is of such dimensions that in an assembled condition it projects through the first opening and/or the longitudinal slots and non-rotatably fixes the bar element when under a tensile loading relative to the support portion.

12. (previously presented) An arrangement as set forth in claim 1 characterised in that the support portion is adapted for jointly cooperating with at least one fork element.

13. (currently amended) An arrangement as set forth in claim 8 characterised in that the ~~fork element~~ counterpart fork coupling element and/or the bar element has at the bottom a female screwthread.

14. (previously presented) A coupling element, in particular for use in a supporting and fastening arrangement as set forth in claim 1 characterised by a yoke-shaped pivot portion which is adapted for connection to a counterpart coupling portion and which has a recess which is formed parallel to a pivot axis of the pivot portion and which is in opposite relationship to the counterpart coupling portion and which is such that the coupling element can be fixed thereby to a mast, pipe support in a direction extending parallel to the pivot axis, wherein formed adjacent to the pivot portion is at least one fastening portion which is to be attached in one-piece relationship, for such a fixing.

15. (previously presented) An arrangement as set forth in claim 1 characterised in that the support portion is adapted for jointly cooperating with at least one bar element.